UNITED NATIONS **S**

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/26031
2 July 1993
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: RUSSIAN

LETTER DATED 2 JULY 1993 FROM THE HEAD OF STATE OF THE REPUBLIC OF GEORGIA ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Exceptional circumstances force me to address this letter to you.

I send you this report directly from the scene of events.

As a result of unremitting and increasingly intense artillery bombardment of the residential areas of the city of Sukhumi, the number of casualties among the civilian population is spiralling at a catastrophic rate. On 2 July 1993, having yet again violated the cease-fire agreement and disrupted the political settlement process, the separatist clique in Abkhazia commenced a wide-scale offensive along the entire front. The shelling is being carried out by large-calibre mortars, howitzers and Grad rocket launchers, with the use of wide-area shells. The shelling is controlled from the air by Su-25 planes. In the coastal area, controlled by frontier troops of the Russian Federation, assault forces are landing, consisting primarily of citizens of the Russian Federation.

The purpose of these massed actions is to cut Sukhumi off from the rest of Georgia and to blockade the city, before storming it.

In this context, it is unclear what purpose would be served by holding the conference, which was planned earlier in Geneva, on the peaceful settlement of the Abkhaz conflict. It is also difficult to understand why the question of deploying United Nations military observers to the conflict zone is being dragged out.

The situation is so tense and fraught with the danger of the unpredictable escalation of the conflict that I am forced once again to appeal to you to arrange for discussion of this issue at an emergency meeting of the Security Council.

(Signed) E. SCHEVARDNADZE